

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 66

By Harwell

A RESOLUTION to commend Thomas A. Rice for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Thomas A. "Tom" Rice of Nashville is one such estimable person, who served with distinction as a member of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission for a term of two years and eight months; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as a member of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission, Tom Rice distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, a 1974 graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, Tom Rice built garbage dumpsters for McClain Industries for two years before completing his degree and went on to become a leading equipment salesman for the company for more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, a highly successful businessman, Mr. Rice co-founded Awasco, Inc., in Nashville in 1986 and sold the company in 1990 to focus his efforts on the development of Sweeping Corporation of America (SCA); and

WHEREAS, under his dynamic leadership, SCA has become the Southeast's largest contract sweeping company, working with customers in eight states to remove debris and capture environmental contaminants before they enter storm drains or groundwater; and

WHEREAS, an avid outdoorsman who is well informed on the subject of the conservation of game animals, birds, and fish within this State, Mr. Rice is a legacy sponsor of

Ducks Unlimited, a conservation banker for stream and wetlands mitigation, and a multi-term board member and past chair of the Tennessee Wildlife Federation; and

WHEREAS, through the Tennessee Wildlife Federation and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Mr. Rice and his son Hunter host the annual Davis P. Rice Memorial Waterfowl and Dove hunts, which were established to honor the legacy of the late Davis Rice, Mr. Rice's son, by sharing a love of the outdoors with hundreds of Tennessee kids; and

WHEREAS, Tom Rice has personally funded numerous lifetime hunting and fishing licenses for participants, and the Davis P. Rice Scholarship Fund has provided over \$20,000 in college scholarships. In 2012, approximately 250 children took part in the hunts, many of them hunting for the first time, as they and their families made lifelong memories together; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rice's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Rice is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Debbie, and their son, Hunter; and

WHEREAS, Tom Rice is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Thomas A. Rice for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as a member of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.